Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 271400Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

CONCUL BOMBAY 7526

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS,,PINT, IN

SUBJECT: J. P. NARAYAN MOVEMENT FORMS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

REF: NEW DELHI 15809

1. A TWO DAY CONFERENCE OF NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION PARTIES CONVENED

BY JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN AGREED ON NOVEMBER 26 TO FORM A NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE AGITATION IN BIHAR AND EXTEND THE MOVEMENT TO OTHER STATES.

THE GENERAL PLATFORM OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES DECENTRALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY, EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, EQUITABLE LAND OWNERSHIP, APPLICATION OF LABOR INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY TO AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, EXTENSIVE PROPAGATION OF DOMESTIC AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND REMOVAL OF ILLITERACY WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

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2. AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ARE:

MR. PILOO MODY AND MR. RAJ NARAIN OF THE BHARATIYA LOK DAL, MR. S. M. MISHRA AND MR. ASHOK MEHTA OF THE ORGANIZATION CONGRESS, MR. ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE OF THE JANA SANGH, MR. GEORGE FERNANDES OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, MR. PRAKASH SINGH BADAL OF THE AKALI DAL, MR. TRIDIP DHOWDHURY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY AND MR. ERA CHEZHIAN OF THE D.M. K. ACHARYA KRIPALANI IS ALSO A MEMBER.

- 3. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED TO CONSTITUTE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNDER NARAYAN TO SPELL OUT A "MINIMUM" PROGRAM OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION. THE CONFERES ALSO DECIDED TO: (1) SEND VOLUNTEERS TO BIHAR; AND (2) TO ORGANIZE A MASSIVE PEOPLES' MARCH (ONE MILLION MARCHERS) ON PARLIAMENT DURING THIS SESSION.
- 4. COMMENT: PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE HAVE REPORTED THERE WERE STRONG EFFORTS MADE BY OPPOSITION LEADERS TO FORCE NARAYAN TO ASSUME A POLITICAL ROLE. ALTHOUGH HE HAS ATTEMPTED WITH SOME SUCCESS TO DEFLECT THIS PRESSURE, THERE IS NO LACK OF OPPOSITION ENTHUSIASM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NARAYAN'S STATURE AND APPEAL AS A DEFACTO LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. BY AGREEING TO SPELL OUT A COMMON PROPRAM FOR THE MOVEMENT, NARAYAN IS EDGING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO POLITICAL COMMITTMENT.

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Message Attributes

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